

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this paper. No claims are amended.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,118,754 to Sako et al. (hereinafter, merely "Sako") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0025460 to Hyodo et al. (hereinafter, merely "Hyodo").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Applicants respectfully submit that Hyodo is not prior art.

Hyodo was filed on July 7, 2004 and published on February 3, 2005.

This application is a 371 of PCT/JP04/08402 filed on June 9, 2004, which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application 2003-165859 filed on June 11, 2003.

The filing date of July 7, 2004 of Hyodo is after the priority date of June 11, 2003 of this Application. The publication date of February 3, 2005 of Hyodo is after the filing date of June 9, 2004 of this application. Accordingly, Hyodo is not prior art.

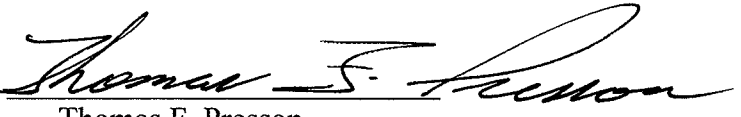
CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800